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United States Coast Guard

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COMDTINST 4700.4

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 4700.4

Subj: CG-4 TECHNICAL AUTHORITY

1. PURPOSE. This instruction establishes technical authority policies for design, construction, and maintenance of Coast Guard systems and assets. These policies explain engineering and technical authority responsibilities and interaction with asset and systems acquirers in providing best value engineering and technical products.

2. ACTION. Area, district, and sector commanders, commanders of maintenance and logistics commands, commanding officers of integrated support commands, commanding officers of headquarters units, assistant commandants for directorates, Judge Advocate General, and special staff elements at Headquarters shall comply with the provisions of this instruction. Internet release is authorized.

3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. None.

4. BACKGROUND. It is essential throughout the design and construction of Coast Guard assets and systems that key technical and production issues be addressed properly and adequately. The CG-4 organization is aligned to develop and employ consistent, disciplined, collaborative engineering processes that provide safe, reliable, effective, integrated, timely, and affordable assets for the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard's engineering workforce is aligned by technical areas; its engineers are empowered to make disciplined technical decisions, consistent with their technical expertise. This alignment is essential to an agile, effective, and efficient engineering workforce. The independence of technical authority is an essential aspect of our engineering community because it provides (1) constructive collaboration with programmatic authorities on technical work, and (2) checks and balances necessary to ensure assets and systems meet the changing needs of the Coast Guard.

5. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES. The following lists roles and responsibilities of organizations involved in the technical authority process.

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a. Program Authority. The Program Authority is the acquisition program/project manager. The Program Authority, in conjunction with the Contracting Authority, has cognizance over the acquisition and acceptance of the asset or system, and acts on the government's behalf in all matters relating to procurement of the asset or system. In executing its acquisition responsibilities, the Program Authority shall work collaboratively with the Technical Authority from program inception to include and administer established policies, standards, guidelines, architecture, and best practices provided by the Technical Authority. The Program Authority, in conjunction with the Contracting Authority, also implements the results of the Technical Authority's adjudication of changes and deviations to the established standards. The Program Authority will facilitate collaborative efforts between industry and government members.

b. Technical Authority. The Technical Authority for all Coast Guard engineering and logistics programs is Commandant (CG-4). Technical authority is the authority, responsibility, and accountability to establish, monitor, and approve technical standards, tools, and processes in conformance with policy, requirements, architectures, and standards. This includes: design, maintenance, supply, transportation, and other elements of integrated logistics support to be incorporated in the development of assets and systems. The Technical Authority is also responsible for sustaining all operational assets, and for providing expertise and advice in integrated engineering and logistics competencies. In executing its responsibilities, the Technical Authority shall work collaboratively with the Program Authority from program inception to provide technical engineering, sustainment, and logistics expertise as well as the technical standards to which the asset is to be designed and constructed. In addition, the Technical Authority is responsible for adjudicating all changes and deviations as they apply to these standards and their interpretation. Technical Authority decision-making is an inherently governmental function. Commandant (CG-4) is responsible for structuring a programmatically independent technical authority to:

(1) Select technical standards, tools, and processes that deliver the safety, reliability, and performance required by the asset and meet programmatic needs.

(2) Ensure assets are certified to meet the established requirements.

(3) Ensure assets are supported properly throughout their life cycle.

(4) Ensure timely and responsive technical decisions.

(5) Ensure compliance with all applicable environmental laws and standards.

6. TECHNICAL AUTHORITY PROCESSES AND CERTIFICATIONS. Technical Authority processes and associated certifications are an essential aspect of independent technical authority, providing objective evidence of safety, reliability and affordability. These processes will be further defined in subsequent instructions.

7. CONCLUSION. Technical Authority process and policies exist to ensure the Coast Guard has the best value engineering and technical products as well as to ensure assets, new and

existing, are reliable, maintainable, and safe to operate. Through the close partnership between the Technical Authority and the Program Authority, the Coast Guard can ensure continued mission readiness.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS. Environmental considerations were examined in the development of this Instruction and have been determined to be not applicable.

9. FORMS AVAILABILITY. None.

T. W. ALLEN /s/
Commandant